

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17-25, and 27-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 14, and 24 are independent.

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 14-15, 24-25, and 34-39 were rejected as being unpatentable over Overholt '888 or '054, for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections. However, the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 3-8, 11-13, 16-23, and 26-33 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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